

Message Text

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R 011951Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020740

THE FOL TEL FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED JAN 31, 1974
TO PHNOM PENH IS REPTED:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB

SUBJECT: INSURGENT PROPAGANDA EFFORTS

REF: STATE 20050

1. AS EMBASSY HAS NOTED IN ITS REPORTING, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN FUNK/GRUNK PROPAGANDA EFFORTS TO PANIC THE POPULATION AND UNDERMINE THE MORALE OF THE ARMED FORCES. WE HAVE TAKEN PARTICULAR NOTE OF EXAGGERATED CLAIMS BY THE ENEMY THAT PREK PHNOU POL DEPOT WAS "IN FLAMES", THAT MINISTRIES HAD BEEN "REMOVED FROM PHNOM PENH" AND THAT LON NOL HAS GONE INTO HIDING.

2. DENIALS BY THE GKR OF THESE CLAIMS ARE NOT GETTING THROUGH HERE THOUGH WE NOTE THAT TRINH HOANH MADE A VALIANT TRY ON JANUARY 26 AND PRESS REPORTS OF THE WAR HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FRIENDLY AND INFORMATIVE. FYI: THE AP TICKER ITEM DESCRIBED IN REFTEL STATING THAT THE KC HAS ASKED COSVN FOR A DIVISION HAS BEEN PLAYED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES,
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BALTIMORE SUN AND PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. END FYI. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE GKR SHOULD BE MAKING MORE OF THESE

EXAGGERATED CLAIMS AND TURNING THEM BACK UPON THE INSURGENTS AS ACTS OF DESPERATION DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THEIR OFFENSIVE.

3. VOA WILL NOT CARRY SUCH COMMENTARIES WITHOUT WIRE

SERVICE REPORTS OR PUBLISHED STATEMENTS BY LON NOL OR LONGBORET AS A BASIS. THE EMBASSY MAY WISH TO SUGGEST TO THE GKR THAT PRESS TOURS TO THE AREAS AROUND THE CITY ALLEGEDLY OVERRUN AS WELL AS EVIDENCE THAT LON NOL IS STILL IN PLACE COULD BE NEWSWORTHY. WE WILL THEN TRY TO SEE TO IT THAT VOA REPLAYS IT FOR THE CAMBODIAN AND ENGLISH NEWS SERVICES. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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